

Year 12 Summer 2

NEWSLETTER

As we come towards the end of the academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been a fantastic year for our Year 12 students.

The final half term has certainly been a busy one, with students completing their end-of-year examinations and demonstrating the knowledge, skills and resilience they have developed throughout their first year of Sixth Form. These exams are an important milestone and provide students with a valuable opportunity to reflect on their progress and consider the areas they can continue to develop as they move into Year 13.

However, the end of the year is also about celebrating everything our students have achieved. From their academic progress to work experience, enrichment, university and apprenticeship preparation, and the many wider opportunities they have embraced, there is plenty for our Year 12 cohort to be proud of.

And, of course, what better way to finish the year than with our Year 12 rewards trip to the aqua park! This will be a brilliant opportunity for students to relax, have fun with their friends and celebrate the end of a successful year together.

Luke Rawling, Head of Year 12

A message from the Headteacher

I have one word to say regarding this term...WOW!!! I can honestly say in the last sixteen years of my Headship, I have not seen such amazing work from students and staff. Many thanks to everyone who has made Springwood such a great place to be this term. I am genuinely excited and looking forward to next year to see what the school can achieve next!

The year 11 and 13 examinations have gone very well indeed. It has been great to see the hard work of students and staff paying off. The feedback from students leaving examinations has been very encouraging. Similarly, the commitment of students to our collapsed revision days will pay massive dividends for every student. I am really looking forward to the A level and GCSE results days to see how all this hard work and commitment pays off.

The list of after school events this year has hit an all-time high! These have included;

House Dance

Trust Dance

Aiming for Excellence

Four nights of Music festival

Sports Awards Evening

Arts Awards Evening

Key Stage 3 Awards Evening

and finally, the Fashion Show!

Many thanks to everyone who has made this such a fabulous year for our students. Please have a wonderful summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.



Andrew Johnson, Headteacher

Springwood Gold Award

Creativity was golden, when Springwood High School saw its extensive Arts offering recognised with a prestigious national award.

We received the Gold Artsmark Award from Arts Council England, following a two-year process in which the school demonstrated its commitment to creative subjects ranging from Music, Dance, and Drama, to Art, Photography, Design, and Philosophy.

“We had to submit a Statement of Commitment, which outlined all of the areas we, as a school, wanted to develop for our students within the Arts,” said Pete Cuss, “My role was co-ordinating the areas for development, and communicating this to staff and students. I also wrote the reports that were submitted to Artsmark.

“All of the Arts faculty staff were leaders in the operational aspects of our journey, hosting workshops, collaborating with industry professionals, organising trips, and enhancing the Arts provision in their own department.”

“This is an important award, as it is nationally recognised,” added Mr Rawling. “It is a good way for us to review, reflect, and refine what we do at Springwood within the Arts, and keeps us up to date for our students.”



Friendships, Food and French Adventures

Tristan, Year 12

This year's French Exchange proved to be one of the highlights of the school calendar, giving students the opportunity to experience life, language and culture on both sides of the Channel — with plenty of memorable moments along the way.

The exchange began in February with the arrival of our French visitors after a long journey via Newhaven. Despite a difficult ferry crossing for some, spirits remained high and students quickly settled into family life, sharing meals, exchanging gifts and forming friendships that would grow throughout the week. Trips to Cambridge introduced our visitors to punting, British food and the delights of Wingstop, while an escape room challenge tested everyone's communication and teamwork skills under pressure.



During their stay, the French students experienced lessons in school, explored local history through a ghost tour of King's Lynn, enjoyed a fiercely competitive bowling match and even took part in practical science lessons — including dissecting a lamb's heart. Throughout the week, students developed confidence speaking both English and French, while learning more about each other's cultures, routines and traditions. The visit ended with an emotional farewell evening filled with music, laughter and reflection on an unforgettable week together.

Part two of the adventure saw our students travel to France, flying into Nantes before making the journey to Evron. There they were immersed fully in French family life, local schools and culture. Students explored beautiful French towns including Laval, sampled countless baguettes and pastries, took part in another intense escape room challenge and even found time for go-karting victories against their French hosts.

Highlights included hiking in Saint-Suzanne, attending basketball matches, experiencing French lessons and building strong friendships with their exchange partners. Students embraced every opportunity to practise their French — with varying degrees of success — and returned with greater confidence, independence and cultural understanding.

Most importantly, the exchange created memories and friendships that will last for years to come. From late-night conversations and shared meals to laughter-filled excursions and emotional goodbyes, it was an experience our students will never forget. As the students themselves described it: "Best. French. Exchange. Ever."



A message from our trained careers advisor Christine Walton:

If your child is in Year 12, this is the most important career message they will hear all year.

Not in September. Now.

Here's why May matters more than most families realise

Degree apprenticeship applications for many top employers - PwC, BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, Deloitte, HSBC - open in the autumn. October. November. January for others.

That's only five months away. It sounds like plenty of time.

It isn't. Not if you're starting from scratch in September.

The students who secure these programmes don't suddenly get ready in the autumn.

They use the summer - intentionally - to build the foundations that make their application competitive before the window even opens.

That means:

- A LinkedIn profile that actually works. Not a blank page with a school photo. A profile that makes a recruiter stop and think: this person is switched on.
- A CV that translates experience into skills. Not a list of GCSEs. Evidence of who they are and how they think.
- A clear list of target employers. Not "I'll see what comes up." A shortlist of 10 to 15 programmes that fit their interests, strengths, and ambitions - researched properly before the rush begins.
- Understanding what the process involves. Online tests. Video interviews. Assessment centres. Most students find out about these stages after they've already failed one.

The summer between Year 12 and Year 13 is the single most valuable preparation window in the entire degree apprenticeship journey. Most families spend it doing nothing career-related. The ones who prepare are the ones who get the offers. If you have a Year 12 student at home and degree apprenticeships are even a possibility, this summer is not the time to switch off.

It's the time to get a head start that most of their peers won't have.

Therefore, please encourage your young person to reach out for a 1-1 Careers Guidance Meeting

APPRENTICESHIP Levels in the UK



All the Talent at All Saints

It was last but very definitely not least, when talented young musicians from Springwood High School joined others in an impressive performance that brought the Spring Series of the King's Lynn Festival to a close.

The Young Musicians' Showcase in All Saints Church featured seven students, including five from our school, with the performers playing to a packed audience of more than 100 people.

"They performed on a range instruments, including piano, voice, and flute, and a range of classical-style pieces by composers such as John Ireland, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and John Rutter," said Robin Norman, who is Director of Music at Springwood and the West Norfolk Academies Trust, of which we are a member.

"I work with the King's Lynn Festival to help organise the event by locating the musical talent in local schools and then putting together a suitable programme," he explained.

It was the second time the event had taken place as a precursor to the Festival in July, with Springwood involved on both occasions.

"There was a near-capacity audience of over 100, and, after the event, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with, perhaps, an element of surprise at the incredible standard that was exhibited by the young people that performed," continued Mr Norman.

"One person even commented to me that they thought they would not have seen better in a professional recital."

"The opportunity for students to perform as part of an internationally renowned festival is a huge boost to them as musicians," he added.

"In addition, the King's Lynn Festival then offers some of the students to perform in the main festival in July as one of the prelude concerts before a main festival event, and, indeed, we do have a student undertaking one of those this coming July.

"These are opportunities that do not come along to young musicians every day, and I am really grateful to Ambrose and the Festival for their support of young musicians in this way."



PTFA News



Wow – another school year has already drawn to a close. As always, it's the perfect moment to look back on what we've achieved: the fundraising successes, the support we've given students across a whole range of extra curricular events, and—yes—take a little pride in ourselves after receiving a Radio Norfolk Make a Difference award (more on that shortly).

This year's events/activities are listed as follows:

October: Year 6 specialist arts auditions (refreshments), Year 7 Halloween Disco , Year 8, Halloween Disco, 100 Club draw, Donation of 45 pumpkins to year 7 special art project

November: Bingo, 3rd Annual Christmas Craft Fair, The Nativity and the stolen Christmas Elves -community theatre company event (refreshments)

December: Community Carol Service (refreshments), Year 8 Christmas Disco, Alice in Wonderland (refreshments), 100 Club draw

January: Year 7 New Year Disco, Les Misérables (refreshments)

February: Year 8 Valentine Disco, 100 Club draw

March: Giant Easter Egg Raffle (kindly donated by the Rotary Club), Bingo, 100 Club draw, The Players production of The History Boys (refreshments)

April: Bingo

May: 100 Club draw, Quiz Night, The Players production of The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe (refreshments), SHS's Dance Off (refreshments)

June: Bingo, Quiz Night

July: NWAT Community Music Festival (refreshments), 100 Club draw, Fashion show (refreshments)

At the time of writing, we still have the Fashion Show ahead of us, where we'll be providing refreshments — and, for the first time, ice lollies (a very welcome treat in this heat). Year to

date, we've raised £9,905.62 and we're hoping to have broken the 10k mark once we've added fashion show profit. This achievement comes from the hard work of the PTFA committee, our volunteers, student helpers and teachers. But just as importantly, a huge thank you goes to the parents, carers and family members who attend, support and take part in these events — you're a big part of what makes them such a success.

This year marked the launch of our first ever lottery, the '100 Club' — a new initiative designed to raise funds for the school while giving participants the chance to win cash prizes. In its debut year, it has paid out £617.40 in winnings and generated £826.60 for the school.

Our final draw of this year took place on Wednesday 8 July (drawn a week earlier than advertised so prize payments could be made before the end of term).

We're thrilled to announce the winners as follows, congratulations to all:

1st prize £52.20 - Mr P Bumstead (no. 36)

2nd prize £31.32 - Mrs C Franks (no 52)

3rd prize £20.88 - J Butcher (no 42)

We'll be running the lottery again next year, with an even simpler application and payment process. Here's a quick overview:

- Cost — £24 per year, payable by bank transfer, cash at PTFA events, or card.
 - Entry — Each £4 buys one membership number; multiple entries are welcome.
 - Eligibility — Open to individuals aged 16+.
 - Draws — Held every half term (six per academic year); dates will be published on the SHS website.
 - Prizes — 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners each draw.
 - Winnings — 45% of fees collected that month go to prizes; 55% supports the PTFA.
 - Winners — Announced on the SHS website, newsletters, Facebook and in PTFA minutes.
- Prizes are paid via bank transfer.

Look out for full details and the relaunch in September.

And finally, we're absolutely delighted to learn that the SHS PTFA has been nominated for a Radio Norfolk make a difference award 2026. A panel of judges are now reviewing all entries, with the winner being announced later in the Summer. Even if we don't get shortlisted, we're thrilled to be recognised for the work we do for the students and the school.

An extract of the nomination is shown below:

“The SHS PTFA is a group of parents (with a couple of teachers) almost all with full time jobs, and various family or other commitments, who regularly give up their time to organise and staff Bingo nights and Year Discos (themed), an annual Christmas Fair, a 100 Club, various raffles, quiz nights and other fundraising activities for the school, including supporting school events throughout the year with refreshments stands. In the past three years the PTFA have raised thousands for the high school, which previously had little to no similar support, and have helped fund/purchase over £20,000 worth of equipment etc, including an upgraded lighting system for school productions (also used by a number of outside groups who hire the school facilities), tiered retractable seating for the main school hall, resources for the after school fashion club, SpringFest for various year groups (rewards days for the children) and sheet music for concerts/performances. Members put in hours and hours of time and hard work, and the amount of money raised in the past three years has far exceeded expectations and previous support for the school. The pupils benefit from the activities the PTFA run, which they can also join in and enjoy! Community groups also share the enhanced facilities when they hire the school.”

Enjoy your summer! We look forward to seeing you next year — whether you're sharing ideas, lending a hand, or joining our events.